

CENTRAL UNIT:

CARES which stands for Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education Services.

CARES provides inmates the opportunity to learn how to and continue to train service dogs. The dogs are then placed with members of the public with some type of disability. It gives the inmates something positive to focus on and care for. It teaches them patience, responsibility, leadership skills, social skills, and communication skills. It also teaches them how to love and to be loved unconditionally.

EAST UNIT:

The Lucky Dog Program started at HCF in 2002 with just one dog. It has since grown to 15 dogs affecting a total of 60-65 offenders. There are 4 offenders assigned to each dog and at any given time 3-5 offenders will be assigned as extra handlers to fill in when needed. All funding for this program is generated through the Friends of Animals in Need, Inc.

Lucky Dogs receive training from offenders at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. The dogs are taught basic obedience commands and learn to come, sit, lie down, and stay. They are house broken, crate trained, and are taught to walk on a leash. This is a second chance for the lucky dogs, and is also a second chance for the offenders. Offenders selected to participate in this program are given the opportunity to give back to their community by helping to train dogs that would likely otherwise be euthanized.